



### Senator Lincoln Announces Plan for Greater Transparency in Health Insurance Reform

Over the past few months, I have heard from many Arkansans who are frustrated and lack accurate information on the emerging health care proposals in Congress. Arkansans have the right to know in advance what health care changes that Senators will be voting on later this month, and that is why [today I led](#) a group of Democratic Senators in pushing Senate leaders for greater transparency in the health insurance reform debate.

My plan for greater transparency regarding health insurance reform legislation would require the following:

- Legislative text and complete budget costs from the Congressional Budget Office to be posted on a public website at least 72 hours prior to the first vote to proceed to health reform legislation;
- The legislative text and complete costs of the health care bill as amended made available to the public for 72 hours prior to the vote on final passage of the Senate bill;
- The legislative text of all amendments filed and offered for debate on the Senate floor posted on a public website prior to beginning debate on the amendment;
- The final agreement between the House of Representatives and the Senate and complete costs of the final bill made available to the public for 72 hours prior to the vote on final passage in the Senate.

At a time when trust in Congress and the U.S. government is unprecedentedly low, we can begin to rebuild the American people's faith in their federal government through transparency and by actively inviting Arkansans and all Americans to participate in the legislative process.

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